

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 05022 271308Z

45

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
----- 103410

P R 271100Z MAR 74  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1877  
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI  
AMCONSUL UDORN

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5022

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, TH  
SUBJECT: GENERAL KRIT SIWARA ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PRIME MINISTER  
SANYA THAMMASAK'S RESIGNATION

REF: BANGKOK 4945 AND 4950

SUMMARY: GENERAL KRIT SIWARA DISCUSSED MARCH 27 THE UNCERTAIN  
PROSPECT OF SANYA'S RESIGNATION ABOUT APRIL 15. KRIT  
CONTENDED THAT IF SANYA RESIGNED, ANOTHER, BUT STRONGER,  
CIVILIAN WOULD REPLACE HIM, WITH THE MILITARY EXERCISING  
FIRMER CONTROL THAN PRESENTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A MARCH 27 CONVERSATION WITH THE POLITICAL  
COUNSELOR, GENERAL KRIT SIWARA DISCUSSED THE RECENT RUMORS  
THAT PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK MIGHT RESIGN (REFTELS).  
KRIT FOCUSED ON APRIL 15 AS THE CRITICAL DATE FOR SANYA'S  
MAKING UP HIS MIND WHETHER TO RESIGN OR STAY ON, AND FOR  
THE KING'S DECISION. KRIT PRAISED SANYA FOR HIS ABILITY TO  
COMPROMISE AND HIS CAPACITY FOR WORKING WITH THE MILITARY.  
HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE SUPREME COURT WAS NO TRAINING  
GROUND FOR THAI POLITICS. SANYA WAS NOT A STRONG ENOUGH  
LEADER FOR THE CRUCIAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CURRENTLY FACING  
THAILAND. KRIT CITED AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF GOVERNMENT  
WEAKNESS THE FIVE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PROTESTORS LINED UP  
OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE DURING THE MARCH 26 CABINET

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 05022 271308Z

MEETING. SANYA HAD AGED CONSIDERABLY IN HIS PRESENT JOB.

HE HAD DONE HIS BEST DURING HIS OVER-FIVE MONTHS IN OFFICE, AND WAS STILL THE BEST CIVILIAN ON HAND TO HEAD THE GOVERNMENT IF HE WOULD ONLY TAKE A PERIODIC SHOT OF VITAMINS.

2. KRIT CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT IF SANYA RESIGNS AS OF APRIL 15, THAILAND FOR THE TIME BEING WOULD NEED A CIVILIAN SUCCESSOR WHO CAN WORK WITH THE MILITARY. THE RECENT PRESS ARTICLES TOUTING JUSTICE MINISTER PRAKOB HUTASINGH AS A SUCCESSOR, WERE RIDICULOUS. PRAKOB COULDN'T HANDLE THE JOB. IN FACT, THERE WAS NO CIVILIAN IN THE CURRENT CABINET, INCLUDING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SUKIT NIMENHAEMIN, WHO WOULD FILL THE BILL.

3. QUERIED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF KHUKRIT PRAMOT AS PRIME MINISTER, KRIT REPLIED THAT KHUKRIT WRITES WELL. KRIT LUMPED PUAI UNGPHAKON IN THE SAME UNSATISFACTORY CATEGORY. HE WAS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT PROFESSOR WITH NO REAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE, EXCEPT THE NATIONAL BANK, WHICH HARDLY QUALIFIES.

4. KRIT SAID HIS PRINCIPAL JOB RIGHT NOW IS MAINTAINING ORDER IN THE FACE OF GROWING POPULAR AND MILITARY DISCONTENT. THERE ARE A LOT OF JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS CHAOS. KRIT SAID HE HAS CAUTIONED THEM THAT THINGS ARE GOING DOWN, BUT THEY ARE NOW YET AT THE BOTTOM. THE MOMENT IS NOT YET RIPE.

5. KRIT SAID THAT IF THE MILITARY DID MAKE A MOVE, THERE WOULD NO COUP. THEY WOULD BE RUNNING THINGS BUT NOT OCCUPYING THE TOP POSITIONS. KRIT SAID THAT WHAT THAILAND NEEDED WAS A MAN ON A WHITE HORSE. ASKED WHAT COLOR HIS CHARGER IS, HE REPLIED THAT HE RIDES A BLACK ONE. HE WOULD NOT ASSUME THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP. KRIT SAID THAT WHATEVER THE CASE WITH SANYA IN MID-APRIL, THE KING, WHO IS ALSO DISTURBED ABOUT THE CURRENT DRIFT OF THINGS IN THAILAND, WILL MAKE THE DECISION.

6. COMMENT: SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE IN THE WIND FOR APRIL 15, BUT MAGIC DATES SEEM RARELY FULFILLED IN  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 05022 271308Z

SOUTHEAST ASIA. PHNOM PENH WAS SUPPOSED TO FALL ON 16 APRIL 1973; THE LAO COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS HAD SEVERAL DATES WITH DESTINY FOR ITS FORMATION. WE THUS CANNOT PREDICT THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE OF PRIME MINISTERS ON THAT DATE, NOR CAN WE ASSERT THAT IF THERE WERE, KRIT WOULD NOT STEP INTO SANYA'S SHOES, DESPITE HIS PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY. THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF DISCONTENT ABROAD IN BANGKOK, SUMMARIZED BY A TAXI DRIVER WHO

RECENTLY COMMENTED THAT DEMOCRACY WAS NOT GOOD FOR THAILAND BECAUSE GASOLINE PRICES WERE TOO HIGH. THIS TYPE OF UNINFORMED OPINION IS UNFORTUNATELY PREVALENT. WE WILL CONSULT OTHER SOOTHSAYERS DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND REPORT ON THEIR PREDICTIONS.  
KINTNER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, PERSONAL OPINION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BANGKO05022  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740066-0016  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740312/aaaaaldp.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** BANGKOK 4945 AND 4950  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENERAL KRIT SIWARA ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK'S RESIGNATION  
**TAGS:** PINS, TH, (SANYA THAMMASAK), (KRIT SIWARA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005